

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: September 23, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

☒ Chair, Robin Hutcheson

☐ Judy Johnson, District 1

☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2

☐ Tyronne Carter, District 3

☒ Deb Barber, District 4

☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5

☒ Robert Lilligren, District 6

☒ Yassin Osman, District 7

☐ Anjuli Cameron, District 8

☒ Diego Morales, District 9

☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10

☒ Gail Cederberg, District 11

☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12

☐ Chai Lee, District 13

☒ Toni Carter, District 14

☒ Victor Obisakin, District 15

☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16

☒ = present

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Cederberg.

Agenda approved

Council members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Osman, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

Heather Lewis Doran, of Saint Paul, addressed the Council regarding a proposed re-alignment of the Metro H Line. Speaker provided proposed recommendations to the Council, which is attached to the Minutes.

Mary Doran, of Saint Paul, addressed the Council regarding support for proposed re-alignment of the Metro H Line. Speaker noted there were limited opportunities to provide feedback to the METRO H Line proposed plan due to COVID.

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-8)

1. **2026-134:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan, including the addition of a 1.67-acre parcel and the removal of a 1.75-acre parcel, which corrects a boundary discrepancy from the original 1975 long-range plan identified in the Modernizing Mapping project.
 2. Approve the minor Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment.
 3. Encourage Anoka County to implement Land Use and Solar Resources Advisory Comments.
2. **2026-135:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Increase the micro purchase threshold for federally funded procurements from \$10,000 to \$25,000;
 2. Certify that the change is justified and consistent with State law;
 3. Authorize the Regional Administrator to self-certify the increased federal threshold on an annual basis;
 4. Adopt the attached version of FM 14-1 Procurement Policy; and
 5. Direct staff to update any related procedures or other documentation.
3. **2026-136:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached version of the following policy:
 - FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
4. **2026-141:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve a grant of up to \$376,650 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to reimburse for the acquisition of a 1.27-acre parcel located at 8370 Rebecca Park Trail in Greenfield, MN, for the Lake Rebecca Park Reserve.
 2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
5. **2026-142:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve a grant of up to \$385,043 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 0.89-acre parcel located at 8495 Rebecca Park Trail in Greenfield, MN, for the Lake Rebecca Park Reserve.
 2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant

agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

6. **2026-143:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2027 Regional Parks and Trails System Competitive Equity Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability attached to this report.
7. **2026-161:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes to bind the rail liability insurance related to the Green Line Extension for the 2026-27 policy year effective October 1, 2026-October 1, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$4,300,000.
8. **2026-166:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments for:
 1. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy),
 2. SFY 2027 Regional Parks Bonding Program (Bonding), and
 3. SFY 2027 Legislatively Designated Pass-through Program (Pass-Through), and in accordance with, Tables 1, 2, and 3.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Lilligren. Chair Hutcheson gave kudos to staff involved in policy changes to procurement as the changes make it easier to work with government.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Community Development

1. **2026-149 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council:
 1. Approve the 2027 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Plan, including changes to the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan as described in this report and attachments.
 2. Authorize the Metropolitan Council staff to execute the required certifications.
 3. Direct staff to submit the final PHA Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Toni Carter.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-167 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:
 1. Authorize the City of Lakeville to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
 3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater, transportation, forecasts, and surface water management.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Wulff.

Motion carried.

Environment

1. No reports.

Management

1. No reports.

Transportation

1. No reports.

Joint reports

1. No reports.

Other business

1. No reports.

Reports

Chair Hutcheson shared that Council Member Deb Barber received the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) “Elected Official of the Year” Award in the Leadership category for her outstanding leadership and contributions to the region. In addition, Chair Hutcheson noted that there is a Green Line Extension opening date announcement event on Saturday, September 25, 2026.

Council Members Osman and Obisakin reported on their experiences at the Mpact Transit + Community Conference in Toronto.

Council Member Jenkins thanked Chair Hutcheson for taking time to meet with a District 12 resident, Jeff Reed.

Regional Administrator shared that Amy Vennewitz received an award at AMPO for her leadership service.

Information

1. Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion (closed session)

It was motioned by Jenkins, seconded by Morales, to close this meeting to the public to discuss Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion. **Motion carried.**

Because this was the final agenda item, it was noted that the meeting would not be reopened following the discussion of Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion and the meeting would be adjourned at the conclusion of the discussions.

In accordance with the motion, the meeting was closed to the public and began discussion of the Open Meeting Safety and Security Training and Discussion at 4:34 p.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Chair Hutcheson asked for the room to be cleared except for Council Members, leadership staff and others whose presence is necessary to conduct the closed meeting.

Closed session business was concluded at 6:00 p.m.

The following persons attended the closed portion of the Metropolitan Council meeting: Ryan O'Connor, Ann Bloodhart, Sam O'Connell, Phil Walljasper, Chief Joseph Dotseth, Lieutenant Kadra Mohamed, Charles Carlson, Greg Kaslow, Lisa

Belland, Lisa Barajas, Elias Montesa, Michael Sund, Maika Boeckel, Megan Burchett, Mee Cheng and Greg Ricci.

BUSINESS (in closed meeting)

Todd Axtell, John Kirkwood, and Rick Larkin presented to the Council Members on the open meeting safety and security training and discussion and answered Council Member questions.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2026.

Council contact:

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